CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A telephony apparatus, comprising:
(a) a processor;
(b) a storage attached to and controlled by the processor;
(c) an object oriented operating system resident in the storage and controlling operations of the processor;
(d) a display attached to the processor under the control of the object oriented operating system;
(e) a telephony element attached to the processor;
(f) a telephony object representative of the telephony element under the control of the object oriented operating system, stored in the storage and displayed on the display; and
(g) means for controlling the telephony element by the object oriented operating system utilizing the telephony object.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for translating information received from the telephony element into information the object oriented operating system can utilize.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for translating information received from the telephony object into information the telephony element can utilize.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the telephony object includes a method and data associated with the telephony object.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for attaching the telephony element to the processor.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 5, including means for connecting a telephone line to the processor.

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7. The apparatus as recited in claim 5, including means for connecting a handset to the processor.

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8. The apparatus as recited in claim 5, including means for setting up a call to the processor.

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9. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for enabling features of the telephony element via the telephony object.

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10. The apparatus as recited in claim 5, including means for passing information between the telephony element and the processor.

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11. The apparatus as recited in claim 10, including means for exchanging DTMF tones between the telephony element and the processor.

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12. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for servicing queries between a telephony element and the object-oriented operating system.

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13. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, including means for exchanging notification information between a telephony element and the object-oriented operating system.

14. A method for enabling telephony elements on a computer system, including a processor with an attached storage, display and telephony element, comprising:

(a) controlling operations of the processor with an object oriented operating system resident in the storage;

(b) creating a telephony object representative of the telephony element under the control of the object oriented operating system, stored in the storage and displayed on the display; and

(c) controlling the telephony element by the object oriented operating system utilizing the telephony object.

15. The method as recited in claim 13, including the step of translating information received from the telephony element into information the object oriented operating system can utilize.

16. The method as recited in claim 13, including the step of translating information received from the telephony object into information the telephony element can utilize.

17. ~~The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the telephony object includes a method and data associated with the telephony object.~~

18. The method as recited in claim 13, including the step of attaching the telephony element to the processor.

19. The method as recited in claim 16, including the step of connecting a telephone line to the processor.

20. The method as recited in claim 16, including the step of connecting a handset to the processor.

21. The method as recited in claim 16, including the step of setting up a call to the processor.

22. The method as recited in claim 13, including the step of enabling features of the telephony element via the telephony object.

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23. The method as recited in claim 18, including the step of passing information between the telephony element and the processor.

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24. The method as recited in claim 23, including the step of exchanging DTMF tones between the telephony element and the processor.

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25. The method as recited in claim 14, including the step of exchanging status information between a telephony element and the object-oriented operating system.

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26. The method as recited in claim 14, including the step of exchanging notification information between a telephony element and the object-oriented operating system.